The Cleveland Museum of Art

Press Release

THE CLEVELAND MUSEUM OF ART
Backgrounder

The Cleveland Museum of Art is one of the world's leading art museums, with roughly a half-million visitors annually. The museum's collection of more than 30,000 works of art ranges over 5,000 years, from ancient Egypt to the present, and includes masterpieces from Europe, Asia, Africa, and the Americas. The museum opened to the public in 1916; it has opened new additions in 1958, doubling the gallery space; in 1971, adding education facilities and special exhibition galleries; and in 1984, greatly enlarging the Ingalls art library. The building now houses some seventy galleries, a large auditorium, lecture and recital halls, classrooms, and a museum store and cafe.

The museum's staff of 250, headed by director Robert P. Bergman, plans and organizes exhibitions, acquisitions, and a wide variety of programs for all ages related to the fine and performing arts.

The museum was founded by a group of civic-minded philanthropists "for the benefit of all the people forever." A private not-for-profit corporation, the museum is governed by a board of trustees. True to the spirit of the founders, general admission is always free, a rare policy among major private art museums in the United States today.

The museum's setting is the Fine Arts Garden, a 15-acre public landscaped park in the heart of University Circle, Cleveland's highly concentrated campus of museums, performing arts facilities, and educational and medical institutions.

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